United Nations E/C.2/2009/2/Add.9

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
24 September 2008

Original: English

Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
2009 regular session
19-28 January 2009

Quadrennial reports for the period 2004-2007 submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council through the Secretary-General pursuant to Council resolution 1996/31*

Note by the Secretary-General

Contents

		Page
1.	All India Shah Behram Baug Society for Scientific and Educational Research	2
2.	Alliance for Arab Women	4
3.	Asian Women in Cooperative Development Forum	7
4.	Friends Society in Social Service	10
5.	World Youth Alliance	13

* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

08-51931 (E) 211108

1. All India Shah Behram Baug Society for Scientific and Educational Research

(Special; 2004)

PART 1: Introduction

The aims and purposes of the organization remain the same: (a) Promoting scientific and educational objectives; (b) Sustainable development, especially with regard to water conservation and purification technologies; (c) Peace education; (d) Providing higher educational facilities for economic sustainability; (e) Providing facilities for social and economic betterment; (f) Providing facilities for health care technologies for low cost rural areas benefits.

PART II: Contribution of the Organization to the Work of the United Nations

January-December 2007

1. To support Goal 8 - develop a global partnership for development, Goal 6 - to combat AIDS, malaria and other diseases and Goal 7 - ensure environmental sustainability, our NGO organized the 21st World Congress at the "Cultural Centre of Russia" in Mumbai, India on 19 - 21 January 2007. Over 220 delegates from 14 countries attended, including from Austria, China, Taiwan Province of China, Tajikistan, and the Chief Guest Russian Consul General in Mumbai. The focus theme was Global Cooperation supporting targets 12 and 14 of Goal 8 for Peace; target 10 of Goal 7 for environment, including water purification; target 8 of Goal 6 for health, ancient Avestan methods for environmental balancing of clean air and water were discussed. Furthermore, new methods to combat AIDS were presented.

2. During June - August 2007, our NGO sponsored a student exchange program for two students from Khujand, Tajikistan to visit India for peace promotion and cultural development, in support of MDG Goal 8. A special book translation cooperation project of our NGO with the Moscow State University and the Tajikistan Technological University culminated in the book release program, which was held on 8 August 2007 at the Cultural Centre of Russia, in Mumbai, India.

3. Maharashtra United Nations Association (MUNA) organized the following programs, which our NGO representatives attended in Mumbai, India on 7 April 2007, including a seminar to celebrate World Health Day. On United Nations Day on 24 October 2007, a film was screened on the Emergence of the United Nations at Raj Bhavan, Mumbia, India.

January-December 2006

4. To support Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 6, 7 and 8 our NGO organized the 20th World Congress at the "Cultural Centre of Russia" building in Mumbai, India on 20-22 January 2006. Over 185 delegates from 14 countries attended. The Lady Chairperson of United Religions Initiative (URI), an NGO based in San Francisco, United States of America and functioning globally, was honoured for being the first indigenous woman to be elected to this responsible global position. A leading doctor from the Occupied Palestinian Territory was honoured for his contribution to MDGs 6 and 7, targets 7, 8 and 10. The Consul of China attended to honour the delegation of doctors from China.

5. For MDG Goal 8 Target 18, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between our NGO and Lomonosov Moscow State University, Institute of Asian and African studies to develop a global partnership for cooperation with the private sector to make available the benefits of ancient cosmic wisdom through new technologies.

6. Our NGO submitted a model draft bill for enactment by the Parliament of India, to the Ministry for Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi, India, for the establishment of a Central Council for Holistic Health Sciences, Complementary, Alternative and Integrated Medicine, in support of MDGs 6 and 7 and to support the work of the Commission for Sustainable Development.

7. Our NGO representative participated in the Fiftieth Session of the Commission on the Status of Women held on 27 February 2006 - 10 March 2006 at the United Nations, New York, United States of America.

8. In support of MDG 8, our NGO sent a delegation of 5 people to attend the Tajikistan 15th Republic celebrations on 5 – 14 September 2006 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

9. Our NGO President was invited as a speaker to a conference, sponsored by the World Health Organization and other organizations in Chennai, India from 28 - 30 November 2006 on HIV/AIDS prevention where the Minister for Health, India, Director of Universal Peace Federation, of India, and others were also speakers.

10. MUNA organized in Mumbai, India, the following programs, which were attended by members of our NGO: On 11 April 2006 - a seminar on the observance of World Health Day AT Godrej & Boyce Co., Vikhroli, Mumbai. On 26 June 2006, United Nations Charter Day was observed at Godrej Bhavan, Mumbai. Chief Guest was a Mumbai High Court Judge. On 31 October 2006 - United Nations Day was observed at Raj Bhavan Durba Hall, India. His Excellency the Governor of Maharashtra presided over this function.

January-December 2005

11. To support MDG 7, our NGO organized the 19TH World Congress at the "Cultural Centre of Russia" Mumbai, India, from 28 - 30 January 2005. Over 220 delegates from 14 countries attended. This was the first World Congress organized after our NGO was granted special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. On 30 January 2005, the anniversary of the death of Mahatma Gandhi was celebrated with inter-faith prayers for peace led by his great grandson, in which the representatives of 10 religious groups participated. The purpose of this was for peace promotion to prevent terrorist activities from arising due to religious disparities.

12. Our NGO representative participated in the 49th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held on 28 February - 11 March 2005 at the United Nations, in New York, United States of America.

13. In September 2005, in support of MDG 7, our NGO president was invited to participate as a speaker in Almaty, Kazakhstan, at the Global Conference for Water Purification Technology, Biogenic Water, Problems of Water Ecology and Safety of Human Life held at Balkash Rehabilitation Centre by the Director of Bion Laboratories, Bio Physics Dept, Al Farabi University, Almaty, Kazakhstan. The serious issues of nuclear contaminated water on health of people, animals and plants in the

afflicted areas were discussed, with new technology on display for treatment of these environmental pollution problems.

14. MUNA observed in Mumbai, India the following programs in which our NGO members participated: April 2005-World Health Day, on the theme of the year "Mother and Child", United Nations Charter Day celebration, the 60th Anniversary of the United Nations on 26 October, 2005 at Raj Bhavan, Mumbai.

January-December 2004 (part year)

15. To support the MDGs 6, 7 and 8 our NGO organized the 18th World Congress of Science and Spirituality/Medicina Alternativa at the "Cultural Centre of Russia" in Mumbai, India on 30 January - 1 February 2004. Over 230 delegates from 12 countries attended.

16. Our NGO President attended the meeting of the Trustees and Members of the Global Council of the United Religions Initiative (URI), a NGO based in San Francisco, United States of America, held on 30 April – 6 May 2004 at City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, California, United States of America. She also attended the 2004 Resumed Session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations of the Economic and Social Council held from 10 to 28 May 2004 at the United Nations headquarters, New York for presenting our organization's application for being granted Special Consultative Status.

17. Our NGO President and also our NGO Youth Leader were both invited to participate as speakers at the Parliament of World Religions held in Barcelona, Spain, on 7-12 July 2004. Our NGO President was a speaker at the Symposium organized by The Temple of Understanding- titled "Consultation on Interfaith Education Symposium", at the Parliament of World Religions in Barcelona, Spain on 8-10 July 2004. She was also a speaker at the Regional Networking Evening, held on Sunday 11 July 2004, organized by the United Religions Initiative (URI) and at the gathering for all URI participants

2. Alliance for Arab Women (AAW)

(Special; 1996)

PART I. Introduction

The Alliance for Arab Women (AAW) is a voluntary non –governmental organization struggling to promote women's rights. AAW works as an umbrella to a network of NGOs and cooperates with other Egyptian and Arab organizations to provide women with basic human security through influencing policies and legislation. AAW provides services and programs that furnish women with basic security and safety in accordance with the complete framework of human rights.

During this reporting period: The number of AAW branches has reached eight. These eight branches are distributed over a number of governorates in Upper and Lower Egypt. The branches enjoy autonomy in their work within the general guidelines and fields of interests of the secretariat. The number of AAW members has reached 150 members, of both genders and from different Arab countries such as Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, the Sudan and Yemen. The network of NGOs for which AAW acts as an umbrella, currently comprises 350 Egyptian NGOs from all over the Egypt. These NGOs participate intensively in implementing the various projects of AAW.

PART II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations:

i. Participation in major conferences and other United Nations meetings:

Participation in the Arab Western Summit of Skills in Berlin, Germany 17-18 January 2004:

Representatives of Alliance for Arab Women attended the following: (a) Arab Regional conference, *Education for All: an Arab vision for the future*, which was organized by United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in cooperation with the Ministry of Education from the 1 – 3 June 2004 in Cairo, Egypt; (b) Arab regional conference 10 years after Beijing, China: A call for peace, organized by the women's committee of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), in Beirut, Lebanon 8-10 July 2004; (c) 5th meeting of the Social Development Committee at the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Beirut, Lebanon during the period from 14-16 March 2005; (d) Training workshop *Promoting Working Women's Rights and Equality* in Employment, which was held in Turin, Italy during the period 28-11 March 2005; (e) Regional Network of Children's Associations organized by The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the government of the Philippines, held between 11 -13 May 2005 in the Philippines; (f) Experts meeting to discuss the *impact of globalization on the social conditions in the Arab region*, held by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) Beirut, Lebanon on 19-21 December 2005; (g) *Developing the Middle East and North Africa*, conference organized by the World Bank and the center of Arab Women in Lebanon in the period from 6 to 9 April 2006; (h) Alliance for Arab Women's Chairperson delivered a lecture about *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and Egypt's Reservations.* in a training workshop for media representatives organized by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in June 2006 in Cairo, Egypt; (i) Workshop on, *Enforcing the United Nations Agreement on Combating Corruption in the Middle East and North Africa*, held in Amman, Jordan in September 2006; (j) Periodic meeting of the European Social and Economic Committee, to follow up on the Barcelona convention, held in Slovenia from 15 to 18 November 2006.

AAW has been always keen to participate in different relevant meetings and seminars tackling different issues related to Women and Development, and to update and brief its members, partners, and beneficiaries about new trends, discussions, and models regarding empowering women.

ii. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and /or specialized agencies:

- In cooperation with United Nations Development Program (UNDP) a seminar was held in Cairo, Egypt to discuss the *Arab Human Development Report* 2003 on 4 January 2004, attended by 300 people.
- In cooperation with United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), Alliance for Arab Women (AAW) implemented a project titled "*Confronting Violence against Women*" during the period from November 2005 till October 2006 in three Egyptian governorates. The project aimed at raising the awareness of the various society sectors of the seriousness of the problem and its effect on women, their families and the society at large. Also, it aimed at empowering women to resist forms of violence through introducing women to the existing laws and means of protection.

iii. Initiatives and projects taken by AAW in support of internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Millennium Development Goals MDGs and Beijing Plat form of Action BPA:

Alliance for Arab Women was the coordinator for the Arab NGOs activities in the Fourth International Conference on women in Beijing, and for the special meeting of The United Nations General Assembly "Beijing +5" held in New York 2000. Accordingly, most of the activities held by AAW are in line with both the Beijing Platform of Action (BPA), and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger: In relation to this goal, Alliance for Arab Women has implemented the following projects: (a) Comprehensive Development for Egyptian Women in the El-Khankah Area, October 2003-September 2004; (b) Comprehensive Development for Egyptian Women in the El-Houteyah District, April 2004-March 2005.

In addition, Alliance for Arab Women assisted women in obtaining job opportunities through training and recruitment. In this aspect, AAW did the following: (a) Trained 3000 women in different industries, mainly weaving, shoemaking, handcrafts, and carpet weaving. These trainees were recruited in factories in Port Said, Giza, and Qalioubeyah governorates; (b) Procured loans to a number of women to finance their running small projects that generate a constant income for them.

Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women: In relation to goal 3, AAW implemented the following projects: (a) Enhancing Egyptian Women's Participation in the Decision-Making Process," March 2001-February 2005; (b) Enhancing Employment Opportunities for Egyptian Women in the New Millennium," July 2001-December 2004; (c) "Mainstreaming Women Impact in the Political Reform Process," January-December 2007; (d) Women Impact on the Political Process," August 2005 (July 2008 projected end of project); (e) Support Women towards Human rights," August 2005-August 2007.

The activities of these projects included helping women to issue national identification cards and voting cards; conducting political awareness campaigns for women through seminars, meetings, workshops and the various mass media channels; holding public rallies for female candidates to support them during elections; preparing a bill for a law to increase the percentage of female representation in parliamentary councils; establishing a parliamentary observation unit through which several relevant studies have been prepared.

Goal 5: Improve maternal Health/BPA: Women and Health: Alliance for Arab Women implemented the project, "Supporting Women's Rights in Health and Employment: August 2005 – August 2007. The following activities have been implemented: (a) Spreading awareness among women concerning health safety for themselves and for their entire families and women's rights and responsibilities in this respect. Attention was given to the issues of early marriage and its risks, female genital mutilation (FGM) and reproduction health; (b) Looking after health services provided to women, upgrading health units in some villages, and establishing women's clubs in health units to raise awareness of personal health and proper nutrition for the family; (c) Helping women benefit from available health services and abandon the erroneous concepts and practices that are likely to harm their physical and psychological health; (d) Training service providers on methods of improving services and facilitating procedures for the women benefiting from these services. Also training rural female leaders on playing an effective role in villages; (e) Cooperating with the Ministry of Health in setting up medical caravans that provide medical services and medication; (f) Preparing studies on

women's awareness of their health rights and comprehension of the conditions that improve their health levels.

BPA: Violence against Women: Addressing violence against women is one of the top issues that Alliance for Arab Women is working on. During the reporting period the following projects have been implemented: (a) Resisting Violence against Women Network," October 2003-January 2005; (b) Preventing Violence and Terrorism Through Community Participation, September 2006 (September 2008 projected end of project); (c) Addressing Violence against Women," April 2006-January 2007.

The activities of these projects included raising awareness of the various society sectors regarding the seriousness of the problem and its effect on women, their families and the society at large; empowering women to resist forms of violence practiced against them through raising their awareness of the relevant laws and her rights as a human being; studying and examining laws related to violence against women and the mechanisms to apply them, thus identifying any flaws in them; attempting to effectuate such laws or advocate their amendment if needed. These include laws concerning adultery, rape, and honor crimes.

3. Asian Women in Cooperative Development Forum

(Special; 2000)

Part I. Introduction

The Asian Women in Cooperative Development Forum (AWCF) is a regional organization working in the field of cooperatives (co-ops) and gender and development (GAD) since 1990. Its members are national co-op organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that promote cooperatives in Asia. With the goal of promoting gender equity and equality within and through co-ops in Asia, AWCF functions as a resource centre, it assists and provides services to co-op organizations and social development agencies (SDAs) in the areas of gender mainstreaming and co-op development; and as an advocacy body, it promotes gender awareness and integration of gender concerns in co-ops and SDAs in the international, regional and local levels.

AWCF's objectives: to strengthen the capacities of members and non-members in promoting, integrating and practising gender equality and gender equity, and the empowerment of women in their co-op structure; to build the capacities and skills of women for increased participation in leadership and decision-making in co-ops and other community-based savings and credit organizations; to advocate for co-ops to be aware of the particular needs of women-entrepreneurs, and for co-ops to use their resources to benefit women-entrepreneurs; and to advocate for co-ops to use their resources to provide services needed specifically by women, arising from their multiple roles.

Part II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

i. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

Collaborated with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Rome, in implementing "Participatory Workshops to Identify a Training Workplan that Addresses the Value Chain of the Internal Value Adding Activities of Four Co-operatives in Thailand and the Philippines", 10-12 April

2006, Nueva Viscaya, Philippines and 26-27 May 2006, Chiangmai, Thailand. Fifty-seven women and men from agriculture-based cooperatives were taught how to apply value-added agriculture to their crops or products.

ii. Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of internationally agreed development goals, in particular, the Millennium Development Goals

i) Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

One of AWCF's major strengths is providing technical assistance, through conduct of different capacity-building activities, for cooperatives and self-help groups assisting coops in Southeast Asia particularly those in Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam. In pursuing the MDGs, the following trainings were conducted in partnership with Asia Urbs Programme of the European Commission, ASEAN Foundation (AF) and Capacity Building International, Germany (InWEnt) as part of promoting **Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger:**

- "Training on PREMIE (Business Management Skills) Methodology", 3-6 July 2004, Naga City, Philippines.
- Regional Exchange Program on "Promoting Economic Empowerment of Women as Important Dimension to Building Gender Equality in Southeast Asia", 16-27 September 2003, Manila, Philippines and 27 January-7 February 2004, Bangkok, Thailand.
- 100-138 days "Training the Trainer Program within the it@coops Project", October 2005-May 2006 simultaneous in Jakarta, Indonesia, Quezon City, Philippines, and Bangkok, Thailand.
- Regional Forum on "ICT Applications in Enterprise Development, Building Networks and Opportunities for Women Entrepreneurs in Cooperatives", 30 July-4 August 2007, Bangkok, Thailand.
- Regional Forum on "it@coops: Empowering Co-operatives through Information Technology", 19-21 November 2007, Antipolo City, Philippines.

These trainings led to: a) enhanced entrepreneurial skills of 5,860 women and men (61 per cent women); b) trained 74 IT (information technology) Specialists (62 per cent women) that can assist coops and its members in improving their products and services; c) improved the financial condition of AWCF member organizations and its women and men co-op members and d) advocated the use of Free and Open Source Network (FOSS) that enabled co-ops to save money — instead of buying the expensive proprietary software — hence participating co-ops were able to give higher dividends and patronage refund to its members compared to previous years.

In advocating **Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women,** AWCF organized the following activities in coordination with MISEREOR, Germany and KF Project Center (KFPC), Sweden:

- "Regional Training on the Use of the TL (Transformative Leadership) Adoption Assessment Manual", 18-23 June 2006, Bangkok, Thailand.

- Regional Conference on "Gender Integration in Co-operatives: 10 Years Before and After — Empowerment and Development of Women in Cooperatives", 6-8 November 2006, Tagaytay City, Philippines.
- "Pre-testing of the Manual on Training Women Leaders Transforming Co-operatives", 15-17 August 2007, Ilocos Sur, Philippines, and 24-26 August 2007, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- "Regional Training of Trainers (TOT) for Women Leaders Transforming Co-operatives", 2-6 October 2007, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- "Gender Equality Workshop for Co-operatives", 27-29 November, Antipolo City, Philippines.

These capacity-building activities led to: a) enhanced knowledge and skills of 2,157 participants (50 per cent women); b) promoted the concept of TL by recognizing outstanding co-operators and co-operatives through the "Transformative Individuals and Organizations Asian Co-operative Award" or TrIO Award; c) organized and created a gender equality framework for co-ops based on the Equal Opportunities Act of Sweden; and d) trained participants (68 per cent women) to compose AWCF's TL/Gender Equality Resource Pool.

Another major outcome in promoting MDGs 1 and 3 was achieving **Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development.** Aside from friendships forged during trainings, the training participants committed to: a) develop open trading and b) regularly communicate and exchange information/ experiences with each other through the two e-groups: the coop_women@yahoogroups.com and the itcoops_SEAsia@natcco.coop.

ii) Activities in Support of Global Principles

AWCF representatives attended the "Sixth Meeting of the International Co-operative Alliance-Asia and Pacific Regional Women's Committee" and the "ICA Gender Equality Committee (GEC) Conference", 16-17 October 2007, Singapore, Singapore. In the GEC Conference, AWCF's Executive Director presented the topic "Gender Equality as a Driving Force for Social and Economic Innovation" as part of promoting the TL concept.

AWCF has also produced six publications from 2004 to 2007 documenting its learning and good practices: 1) "Transformative Leadership Adoption Assessment: A Manual for Co-operatives"; 2) "Monograph No. 4 Empowering Women in Co-operatives Through ICT"; 3) Regional Conference on "Gender Integration in Co-operatives: 10 Years Before and After"; 4) Regional Forum on "ICT Applications in Enterprise Development: Building Networks and Opportunities for Women Entrepreneurs in Co-operatives"; 5) "Gaining Ground — Case Stories of Gender and Development in the Co-op" and 6) "Trainer's Manual on Training for Women Leaders Transforming Co-operatives". These written documentations adhere to global principles of human rights, equality and cooperation.

4. Friends Society in Social Service

Special; 2004

The aims and purposes of the organization and its main course of action:

Give meaningful opportunities for social, economic and political empowerment to differentially vulnerable groups within the society. To attain dignity and higher standards of life and work towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the least developed countries/areas in South Asia.

Vision & Mission Statement: Friends' Society in Social Service (FSSS) strives to provide opportunities for socio-economic development of the poor and down-trodden people, with particular emphasis on differentially vulnerable groups, towards attaining the overall goal of a society living in harmony with nature and free from the evils of poverty, illiteracy, class and caste difference.

Main Course of Action – In targeted populations: (i) Increase and improve access to pre-primary education services; (ii) Provide compulsory pre-primary/ primary education for the children free of cost; (iii) Provide at least one nutritious mid-day meal to each child; (iv) Inculcate basic education on hygiene, health and other related issues to children; (v) Strengthen people's organization for supporting the process of education; (vi) Prioritize intervention, specifically for Schedule Caste (SC); Schedule Tribe (ST) and other Backward Classes (OBCs); (vii) Focus primary education efforts on improving education results, particularly among the poor and disadvantaged; (viii) Invest in the development of human resources for health, so that both the number and the quality of those human resources increase; (ix) Improve the performance of sector management in support of educational results; (x) Develop effective and sustainable systems of community participation in primary health care delivery; (xi) Control sexually transmitted diseases (STDs)/ HIV/AIDS through motivated education and intervention programs; (xii) Reduce high-risk behavior among target populations; (xiii) Ensure water supply, sanitation, water-related disaster prevention; (xiv) Preparing a Final Action Plan for the International Year of Sanitation (IYS) in 2008; (xv) Encourage self-help, income generation, and education for the goal of increasing women's empowerment; (xvi) Provide community mobilization, capacity building, and community development training; (xvii) Provide infrastructure development and housing for the homeless and poor; (xviii) Help preserve cultural heritage.

PART II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

I) Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations Meetings.

- Participated and shared experience in the NGO Preparatory Forum, held prior to the High-Level Segment of the 2004 Substantive Session of the Economic and Social Council held on 19 March 2004 in United Nations Headquarters, New York.
- Participated in the Conference on "Disaster Management", held in New Delhi, India on 27 January 2005 while Ms. Margareta Wahlstrom (Asst. Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs) and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator (Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs) presented.

ii) Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of internationally agreed development goals:

Following the historic promise made by 189 world leaders at the United Nations Millennium Summit in 2000, Friends Society in Social Service launched a series of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) campaigns in 2005, 2006 & 2007 to popularize the commitments on the Millennium Declaration and the agreement to meet the MDGs by 2015. Since then, the FSSS has organized major campaigns with its members, volunteers and grass-roots people across the nation to inspire citizens to take action in support of the MDGs. From 2005 to date, FSSS has organized campaigns such as "the stand up, take action, show your love" for the MDGs including media appearances and policy engagements on the MDGs at both the state and national levels. FSSS mobilized over 15,000 people to stand up and speak out against poverty and in 2007 a total of 20 different types of campaigns were organized in the states of West Bengal and the Andaman-Nicobar Islands. More than a million people nationally stood up and spoke out against poverty in order to hold governments accountable to their MDGs promises. FSSS and its members are convinced that we are the first generation that can put an end to extreme poverty around the world, and we refuse to miss this opportunity!

Activities in line with the MDGs: During the reporting period, the organization contributed to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the following two states, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and West Bengal, India. The following major actions were undertaken:

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger: Halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.

Actions: Agricultural support to the people of South Andaman by providing:

- 150 seed-kits were distributed among the farmer families.
- Three repairs and excavations of agricultural canals were done in the Neil Island under Andaman-Nicobar Islands, while another five in Bongaon, under the district of 24 Parganas (North), Bhawanipur, Udang village under the district of Howrah, in West Bengal State respectively.
- Small Enterprise support was given to 100 families.
- 250 fishing nets were distributed among the fishermen.

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education: Ensure that children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling.

Actions:

- Pre-School education was provided to 600 children within 20 villages in Udaynarayanpur, Amta and Bongoan Block, India (at 30 students per school time 20 schools within 20 target villages).
- In Andaman, India 600 school kits were distributed among the children in different schools of south Andaman, India.
- In Andaman, India 16 primary schools received teaching materials immediately after the Tsunami. (2004-2005).

Goal 5: Improve maternal health: Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio.

Actions:

- 1,055 Hygiene kits were distributed among the poor mothers in South Andaman District, Andaman, India to improve their health and hygiene.
- In response to the General Assembly resolution 61/192 of 20 December 2006, proclaiming 2008 the International Year of Sanitation (IYS), FSSS by 2007, had completed construction and handed over 1,150 latrines in Amta, Uluberia, Udaynarayanpur, Bongoan block in West Bengal, and South Andaman, India.
- Similarly, by 2007, more than 200 tube-wells had been installed in Uluberia, Amta, Bongoan and Udaynarayanpur area in West Bengal, India to provide safe-drinking water to the poor community.
- During the years 2005 – 2007, 360 long lasting shelters were constructed by FSSS in South Andaman, India, which were handed over to the homeless poor.

A success story focused on the addressed issues, MDGs:

"I, Ms. Arati Das, group leader of Lakshmanpur Village in Neil Island, under the District of South Andaman which is one of the remote Island villages of Andaman–Nicobar Islands, badly affected by TSUNAMI during 2004. Friends' Society in Social Service (FSSS) is the only NGO came in this remote island immediate after the devastating situation. Their sharing and emergency support service kept an "unforgettable impression" in the mind of the people in this island. …"

"We never knew about Economic and Social Council nor even United Nations Organization or its declared action on MDGs. It is FSSS who involved us for development initiatives. Nobody, in this island, cares and bothers about "environment", "sanitation", and "health care". FSSS, through its development action inspired and motivated us to think about the 'quality of life'."

"Human excreta are the essence of the sanitation challenge. Without adequate sanitation facilities to safely contain and dispose of human faeces, a community, especially its women and children, are put at risk and its people locked in an endless cycle of poverty."

"FSSS, however, not only give-up its responsibility by communicating the "concerned issues", but also deeply involved with its "realistic action". Our voice is being heard in this island. Now we can take any decision for implementation and distribution."

"FSSS has constructed "environment friendly latrines" covering around 80% families in this island. We, especially the women are feeling an inexpressible safety and security …"

"Better to say, we the women of this island, are now living in dignity ..."

5. World Youth Alliance

(Special; 2004)

PART I. Introduction

World Youth Alliance (WYA) is a coalition of young people committed to promoting the dignity of the human person at the international level and building solidarity among youth from developed and developing countries. The members of WYA, from ten to thirty years of age, are dedicated to building a culture that promotes the dignity of every person through training, advocacy, and cultural events. With established regional offices in Europe, Latina America and North America, the WYA's international scope expanded as it opened regional offices to operate in the Asia Pacific and Africa.

PART II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the United Nations Economic and Social Council

1. The Commission on the Status of Women: Representatives attended the following sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations Headquarters, New York: 48th Session, 1-12 March 2004; 49th Session, 28 February–11 March 2005; 50th Session, 27 February–10 March 2006; 51st Session, 26 February to 9 March 2007. Representatives distributed the organization's "Declaration on Women" during the 49th Session and three observational documents entitled "Esperanza!" at the 51st Session. WYA sponsored the following side events on the theme "Women and Development" at the United Nations Headquarters, New York: a Film Festival, 19-20 November 2004; an essay contest and roundtable discussion, 19–20 February 2005; and "The Tenth Muse" photograph exhibition and poetry reading, on the beauty and talent of women, in conjunction with the 49th Session of Commission on the Status of Women in 2005. On 1 March 2007, a dinner and lecture entitled "Linking Peace and Respect for Women" in cooperation with MaterCare was hosted for various country delegates at the WYA office, New York.

2. Persons with Disabilities. Representatives advocated for the rights of persons with handicaps in situations of war or conflict, before birth and of women with disabilities, in the following sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities at the United Nations Headquarters, New York: 3rd Session, 24 May–4 June 2004; 4th Session, 23 August–3 September 2004; 7th Session, 16 January–3 February 2006; and 8th Session, 14-25 August, 2006. WYA hosted a side event, showing the film "39 Pounds of Love" during the 7th Session in 2006.

3. Commission for Social Development. Members participated in the following sessions of the Commission for Social Development held in the United Nations Headquarters, New York: 43rd Session, 9-18 February 2005; 44th Session, 8-17 February 2006; 45th Session, 7-16 February 2007. Environmental policies respecting the dignity of the person were advocated in the distribution of "Esperanza!" documents, which account for the insights of youth in the negotiations. Members aided in drafting NGO statements on the foundational role of the family in society and development, and WYA hosted a side event "Roundtable: Labor and Trade and Its Relationship to Human Dignity" with the 43rd Session.

4. The 30th Session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 28 June–2 July 2004, San Juan, Puerto Rico. Representatives distributed "Esperanza!" documents that provided Latin American youth perspectives on human rights and development.

Other meetings and activities: 2006: Representatives attended the 39th Session of the Commission on Population and Development, 3–7 April 2006, United Nations Headquarters, New York. Representatives actively participated in the 14th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, 1–12 May 2006, United Nations Headquarters, New York by distributing "Esperanza!" documents on youth, development and education.

2007: Members in the Asia Pacific attended the Humanitarian Affairs Conference "Enriching Minds, Nurturing Hearts", 11–14 December 2007, at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok. Members from Africa participated and worked with diplomats on documents on maternal and child health and indicators related to the Millennium Development Goals in the 10th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the African Union, 25–26 January 2007, Addis Ababa.

In addition to the above global issues, WYA has worked with United Nations delegations toward an international ban on human cloning and issued the organization's position on Human Cloning in support of the United Nations Declaration on Human Cloning after its adoption by the 59th General Assembly Plenary Meeting, 8 March 2005.

Annual Event at the United Nations Headquarters, New York: The International Solidarity Forum (ISF) is WYA event hosted annually at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, bringing together members from WYA's five regions, international advisors, and members of the United Nations community to examine a global theme through expert lectures, language negotiations, and cultural events. The 2nd Annual ISF, 15-18 November 2004, discussed "Women and Development" and issued WYA's "Declaration on Women." From 27–30 March 2006, the 3rd Annual ISF studied the theme "Good Governance" and hosted "John Paul II: Contribution to Modern Thought of Social Justice and Peace" at the United Nations Headquarters, 27 March 2006. This ISF issued the statement "Declaration on Good Governance." The 4th Annual ISF, 10–14 April 2007, coincided with the 40th Session of the Commission on Population and Development, 9–13 April 2007, United Nations Headquarters, New York, and produced WYA's "Declaration on Development."

Supporting the Millennium Development Goals: In support of internationally agreed Millennium Development Goals WYA hosted training seminars: "Human Cloning," 31 January and 24 April 2004, Nairobi; "Human Dignity and the Economic Sphere," 5 May 2005, London; "Human Dignity and the Future of Central Europe," 6-8 May 2005, Budapest; "International Negotiation Training: the MDGs," 27 July 2005, Washington DC; "Joining Young People for Poverty Reduction and Peace in Africa," 8-11 February 2006, Nairobi; "Sulong: A Call to Development – HIV/AIDS, the MDGs, and United Nations Habitat," 4 March 2006, Manila; "Human Dignity and the Future of Europe," 29 September–1 October 2006, Warsaw; "Eyes Wide Open: Perception of Body and Behavior in International Global Health Policy," 27 June 2007, Brussels; "Emerging Leader Policy Seminar: Human Dignity as the Basis for Canadian Policy," 27-30 September 2007, Ottawa; "Dignity and Peace Seminar," 20 October 2007, Nairobi.

Activities in Support of Global Principles: (i) In accordance with the fourth goal of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme's Habitat Agenda and the declaration of World Habitat Day, WYA began its "Viviamo!" project in October 2005. Each of WYA's regions identified a community-

based habitat project that addressed poverty and local concerns while highlighting the dignity of the person. WYA hosted "Viviamo! Summer School" 17-28 July 2006 and 6-18 August 2007 in Targu Mores, Romania, and "Viviamo! Camp" 7 July – 5 August in Guadalajara, Mexico, and 12-26 July 2007 in Manila with diplomacy training and grassroots development work for creating habitats commensurate with people's dignity; (ii) WYA addressed the global concern of HIV/AIDS with proposals and projects to reduce its spread and reduce the burden of poverty on those experiencing HIV/AIDS at the following conferences: Special Summit of the Americas, 12-13 January 2004, Monterrey, Mexico, promoted programs that recognize the dignity of each person as the key to successful prevention and treatment; United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean 9th Regional Conference on Women, Mexico City, 10-12 June 2004, distributed one "Esperanza!" document on role of solidarity for women affected by HIV/AIDS and another on relationship between family stability and women's education; 15th International AIDS Conference, 11-16 July 2004, Bangkok; International Conference on Population and Development Tenth Anniversary Commemoration, 14 October 2004, United Nations Headquarters, New York, noted emphasis on poverty eradication efforts linked to HIV/AIDS; 2006 High Level Meeting on AIDS, 3 May – 2 June 2006, United Nations Headquarters, New York, distributed documents on spread of HIV/AIDS and youth; 16th International AIDS Conference, 13-18 August 2006, Toronto, Canada, distributed document "Sex Is Just One Part of Who I Am" and presented best practices in Africa and Latin America; (iii) WYA celebrated the Tenth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family and the International Day of the Family, 15 May 2004, with its Europe4Family bike ride. Nearly 2,000 youth biked over 2,000 km from Latvia, Romania, Portugal, and Ireland to arrive in Brussels for a youth festival and seminar in the European Parliament. As the culmination of these events, WYA issued its "Declaration on the Family." The WYA "Declaration on Solidarity" was released 16 August 2005 in Cologne, Germany.